



"Enriching Lives"

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL EXAMINER-CORONER**  
1104 N. MISSION RD, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90033



*Mark A. Fajardo, M.D.*  
Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner

April 08, 2014

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**AUTHORIZE THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL EXAMINER-CORONER  
TO RE-EMPLOY A RETIRED COUNTY EMPLOYEE  
(ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

The Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner (Department) is requesting Board approval that Joseph J. Muto (Employee# 065681) continue as Chief, Forensic Laboratories as a retiree while the County recruits a successor. The Chief, Forensic Laboratories position is considered to be highly specialized and hard to recruit. As such, Mr. Muto's rehire without a break in service upon his retirement is critical to the Department.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:**

1. Find that, as a result of Mr. Muto's retirement on March 28, 2014, it is necessary to fill the mission critical position of Chief, Forensic Laboratories immediately and that Mr. Muto is uniquely qualified to perform the duties of this position until a successor can be recruited and hired.
2. Approve the Department's request to allow Mr. Muto to continue in his current role as Chief, Forensic Laboratories (Item 4358) at the rate of \$63.54 per hour for up to 960 hours per year, which is consistent with his current salary level (Salary Range S-11) pending the hire of a successor.
3. Instruct the Department to prepare and execute the appropriate agreement with Mr. Muto so that he may begin his employment as a retiree-rehire immediately upon his retirement.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

With the retirement of Joseph J. Muto on March 28, 2014, a search is being conducted to fill the position of Chief, Forensic Laboratories for the Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner. Mr. Muto, who has served as Chief, Forensic Laboratories since February 11, 1985, has agreed to continue his service with the Department and assist with the transition of a successor when hired.

**Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

Approval of these recommendations will further the County of Los Angeles Strategic Plan Goal 1, Operational Effectiveness by ensuring continuity of leadership, training and efficient transition for the Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner.

**FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

The cost of the recommended actions will be absorbed within the Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner's existing budget.

**FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

The recommended actions are in conformance with the California Public Employee's Pension Reform Act of 2013.

**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

Implementation of these recommendations will ensure continuity of this mission critical position for the Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark A. Fajardo, M.D.". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MARK A. FAJARDO

Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner

MAF/ep